

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Norfolk, Virginia** – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Thomas Simmons, IV, age 25, of Hampton, Virginia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Robert G. Doumar, Sr., to 78 months in prison. Simmons was convicted by a jury on October 24, 2002, of 2 counts of causing another to make false statements to a federal firearms dealer.

Simmons used three individuals to purchase 29 guns for him, by falsifying the forms required to be completed prior to each sale. Simmons, who paid the individuals with cash and crack, sold the guns in Baltimore.

Mr. McNulty stated: “This case shows the governments’ intention to prosecute not only criminals who use guns, but also those who provide guns to criminals.”

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, the Newport News and Hampton Police Departments investigated this case. Assistant United States Attorney Janet Reincke handled the prosecution for the United States.